



Ryders Health Management

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- Aaron Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Greentree Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Bel-Air Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Lord Chamberlain Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Cheshire House Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Lord Chamberlain Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Mystic Healthcare Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Statement of Martin Sbriglio
before the Aging Committee
February 5, 2015

Sen. Flexer, Rep. Serra and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Management, Inc., that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate; we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for 66 years right here in this state.

I would like to focus on Senate Bill 707. The bill requires a notice on any licensure application to the effect that the owner can be held criminally liable if there is abuse of a patient by an employee. This is blatantly unfair. Please name one industry sector where you hold someone responsible for an act that they have nothing to do with. Not to mention that the premise of this bill is that somehow those of us who take care of the frail elderly as our life's cause would not do everything we can to ensure that our residents are comfortable and happy.

The effect of SB 707 would be to put more work on my staff for very little purpose. The time they spend on record keeping or attending meetings will increase, while taking away their time to be with the residents. I would simply ask you to "do no harm" to us. The industry is struggling and needs your help. The state mandates that we care for low-income patients, but then pays us well below what our care really costs. That's the real problem that deserves your continued attention. Please take no action on this bill.

On the other hand, you are considering several bills that make a good deal of sense and I would urge your support for them.

- Senate Bill 705 could help a spouse to stay in his/her home while their partner is in a nursing home. It allows the spouse to retain additional dollars each month and is a good proposal.
- House Bill 6396 creates a tax deduction for the premiums that are paid by an individual for long-term care insurance. This is a very good idea. The more people that can be encouraged to plan ahead and get this insurance, the better.
- Finally, House Bill 6397 would expand retroactive payments for services made to home care recipients. This will track the policy in Medicaid and I think it warrants your support.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on these bills. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.